

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Joe Courtney today announced that nine eastern Connecticut conservation projects have secured \$539,544 in grant funding from the Long Island Sound Futures Fund. The grants are among 38 awards, totaling \$2.4 million, designated for the preservation of Long Island Sound. Congressman Courtney fought to appropriate \$7 million in FY10 for the Long Island Sound, its largest single-year investment ever. As a direct result of that increase, the Long Island Sound Futures Fund was able to allocate \$1.4 million more for conservation this year than last year.

"We are proud of our beaches and waterways in Connecticut, and we must all lend a hand to keep them clean and safe," said Congressman Courtney. "This funding provides a tremendous boost to groups like Save the Sound and the Trust for Public Land, which are dedicated to preserving Long Island Sound. It will allow them to continue their good work, and preserve the Sound for future generations."

The Trust for Public Land secured \$260,000 to acquire the former Griswold Airport in Madison. It will be converted to parkland and prevent overdevelopment.

"We're honored to receive this grant award from the Long Island Sound Futures Fund and thank Congressman Courtney for his efforts in helping to secure the funds for this program. This land, which will become a new park for Madison, plays a significant role in the ecosystem of Long Island Sound. We appreciate the vision of NFWF, EPA and Long Island Sound Study, and others, in helping us to protect this land for the future of our coastline," said Alicia Betty, project and philanthropy director with The Trust for Public Land. "Together with the voters of Madison, many donors, the State of Connecticut and many conservation organizations, we have been able to prevent the intense development that was slated for this land and ensure that it will become a coastal park for all to enjoy."

Save the Sound secured a \$10,000 grant for its Coastal Cleanup program. Courtney has participated in the annual volunteer effort, which cleans beaches along the Sound.

"We're thrilled to have the Long Island Sound Futures Fund recognize our Coastal Cleanup program in this way," said Leah Schmalz, Director of Legislative and Legal Affairs for Save the Sound, a program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment. "We are extremely grateful for Congressman Courtney's support and advocacy. From successfully fighting to double the federal appropriations for Long Island Sound last session, to getting his hands dirty with citizens at cleanups at Rocky Neck, his ongoing efforts to ensure Long Island Sound is restored and protected demonstrate his dedication to this region," said Schmalz.

Long Island Sound is an estuary that provides economic and recreational benefits to millions of people, while also protecting natural habitats for more than 1,200 invertebrates, 170 species of fish, and dozens of species of migratory birds.

A complete list of eastern Connecticut projects receiving funding is attached.